



Proclamation

Presented

In Recognition of Derek Kurisu Day

WHEREAS, the Ka Lei Hano Heritage Award is conferred by the University of Hawai'i's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) upon individuals whose commitment to CTAHR has greatly enhanced the College's mission of preparing students and all citizens of Hawai'i for life in the global community through research and educational programs supporting tropical agricultural systems fostering viable communities, a diversified economy, and a healthy environment; and

WHEREAS, **Derek Kurisu** has been awarded the 2014 Ka Lei Hano Heritage Award in honor of his exceptional commitment to promoting education and agricultural enterprise in Hawai'i and serving as an invaluable advisor to CTAHR's administration, mentor to the college's students; and inimitable master of ceremonies at CTAHR's Annual Awards Banquet; and

WHEREAS, **Derek Kurisu** has worked tirelessly to promote distributive education opportunities in Hawai'i K-12 schools, provide computer and technology training for industrial arts students, and help young people develop communication, sales, marketing, and customer service skills; and

WHEREAS, **Derek Kurisu** advanced from bag boy to executive vice president of KTA Super Stores, where he established the Mountain Apple Brand label to help residents displaced by the demise of sugar plantations develop thriving businesses in value-added products and diversified agricultural production; and

WHEREAS, **Derek Kurisu** has chaired the Hawai'i Food Industry Association and state Agribusiness Development Corporation, and leads Hoku, an informal collaboration of public and private agencies promoting the "buy local" movement and working to boost Hawai'i's economy while making the islands' food supply safer and more sustainable; and

WHEREAS, **Derek Kurisu** received the 1997 Minority Small Business Advocate of the Year award from the Small Business Administration and was named 2002 Outstanding Alumnus of CTAHR in 2002; and

WHEREAS, **Derek Kurisu** embodies the very best of the values forged by workers in Hawai'i's plantation era—including humility, honesty, economy, community, and respect—learned as a child growing up in Hakalau and Pepe'ekeo, and promotes these values in approximately 50 speaking engagements a year, through contributions to projects such as the cookbook "From Kau Kau to Cuisine," and through his monthly "Living in Paradise" and "Seniors Living in Paradise" cable television programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor for the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim May 10, 2014, as

"DEREK KURISU DAY"

in Hawai'i, and ask all citizens of the Aloha State to join us in recognizing him for his contributions to the state, its citizens, and Hawai'i's agriculture and food industries.

DONE at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this seventh day of May, 2014.


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i


SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i